Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for improving the performance of a decoder, comprising:

determining an energy value for a transmission from a first station to a second station, the decoder residing in the second station;

forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value; and

transmitting the message to the second station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a preamble.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a subpacket.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message between a preamble and a subpacket.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a base station and the second station is a remote station.

7. (Original)   The method of Claim 1 wherein the first station is a remote station and the second station is a base station.

8. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for improving the performance of a decoder, comprising:

     means for determining an energy value for a transmission from a first station to a second station, the decoder residing in the second station;

     means for forming a message carrying and indicator of the energy value; and

     means for transmitting the message to the second station,

     wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) the means for determining an energy value locates the energy value in a look-up table and selects an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) the means for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value forms a message including the index value.

9. (Currently Amended)   A   computer-readable   media   including   computer-readable instructions thereon for performing the steps of:

     determining an energy value for a transmission from a first station to a second station, a decoder residing in the second station;

     forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value; and

     transmitting the message to the second station,

     wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) the step of determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) the step of forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

10. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for improving the performance of a decoder, comprising:

     a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission from a first station to a second station, the decoder residing in the second station; and

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value and for transmitting the message to the second station,

wherein <u>the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and</u> (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

11. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a preamble.

12. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a subpacket.

13. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message between a preamble and a subpacket.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the first station is a base station and the second station is a remote station.

16. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the first station is a remote station and the second station is a base station.

17. (Currently Amended)   A base station for improving the performance of a decoder, comprising:

a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission from a first station to a second station, the decoder residing in the second station;

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value; and

a transmitter adapted to transmit the message in a forward link channel to the remote stations,

wherein <u>the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and</u> (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

18. (Currently Amended)   A remote station for improving the performance of a decoder, comprising:

a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission to a base station, the decoder residing in the base station;

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying and indicator of the energy value; and

a transmitter adapted to transmit the message in a reverse link channel to the base station,

wherein <u>the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and</u> (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value associated with the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indictor of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.